

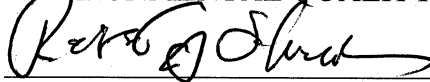
**ROUTE PERMIT**  
**FOR CONSTRUCTION OF**  
**A HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE**  
**IN**  
**SCOTT COUNTY, MINNESOTA**  
**ISSUED TO**  
**NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY d/b/a XCEL ENERGY**  
**MEQB DOCKET NO. 04-75-PPS-XCEL ENERGY BLUE LAKE**

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 116C.57 and Minnesota Rules chapter 4400, this Route Permit is hereby issued to

**XCEL ENERGY**

Xcel Energy is authorized by this permit to construct a new double circuit 115/230 kilovolt transmission line, approximately 4,000 feet long to connect the Blue Lake Substation to the transmission grid, along a route identified in this Permit and in compliance with the conditions specified in this Permit.

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD



Robert A. Schroeder  
Chair

Issued: June 17, 2004

## **I. ROUTE PERMIT**

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board hereby issues this Route Permit to Xcel Energy, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 116C.57 and Minnesota Rules chapter 4400. This permit authorizes Xcel Energy to construct a double circuit 115/230 kilovolt transmission line approximately 4,000 feet long and associated facilities in Scott County, Minnesota.

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The high voltage transmission lines authorized to be constructed under this Permit consist of a double circuit 115/230 kilovolt lines on approximately 110 foot tall, single pole, galvanized steel, davit arm structures. The transmission lines will connect the Blue Lake Substation with the existing 230 kV transmission line that passes south of the Blue Lake Generating Plant.

## **III. DESIGNATED ROUTE**

The proposed line would be constructed 90 feet (centerline-to centerline) east of and parallel to an existing 345 kV transmission line. The proposed route is primarily on property owned by Xcel Energy and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The proposed 115/230 kV route will require an additional 45 foot wide right-of-way immediately east of the existing line right-of-way.

A map showing the route designated for the HVTL corridor is attached.

## **IV. PERMIT CONDITIONS**

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the HVTL and the life of this Permit.

### **A. Construction Practices.**

1. The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Application, unless this Permit establishes a different requirement in which case this Permit shall prevail.
2. The Permittee shall notify the EQB at least 14 days before construction of the transmission lines begin.
3. The Permittee shall locate all transmission structures on property owned or easements obtained by the Permittee.
4. The Permittee shall repair all private roads and lands damaged during construction of the transmission lines.

5. The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall plant or seed areas where structures are installed.

## **B. Completion of Construction**

1. **Notification.** At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the EQB of the date on which the line will be charged and the date on which construction was complete.
2. **As-Builts.** Upon request of the EQB, the Permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.
3. **GPS Data.** Within sixty days of completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the EQB, in the format requested by the EQB, geo-spatial information (GIS compatible maps, GPS coordinates, etc.) for all above ground structures associated with the transmission lines and each substation connected.

## **C. Electrical Performance Standards.**

1. **Grounding.** The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in such a manner that the maximum steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes rms alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way including but not limited to, large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the short circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperes rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code.
2. **Electric Field.** The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.
3. **Radio and Television Interference.** Where radio or television interference is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

- D. Applicable Codes.** The Permittee shall comply with applicable requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

- E. Other Requirements.** The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the permit application and the environmental assessment.

**F. Delay in Construction.** If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years from the date of issuance of this Permit, the EQB shall consider suspension of the Permit in accordance with Minn. Rules part 4400.3750.

**G. Special Conditions.**

1. Prior to construction, Xcel Energy will develop a *Construction and Maintenance Plan* for the transmission line corridor on Mn/DOT parcel 75, in accordance with the following requirements:
  - Qualified biologists will assess the site in the summer and fall of 2004 to review the flora and fauna on the site. Should any endangered or threatened species be identified, these occurrences will be mapped and efforts to minimize impacts will be incorporated into the design, construction and maintenance of the line, as well as the clearing of the ROW.
  - Xcel Energy vegetative management staff will assist in developing a Vegetative Management Plan that will selectively clear the site in order to retain some of the oak savannah community plants. All tree management decisions will comply with the constraints of maximum tree height requirements for the transmission lines. As many savanna species can sprout from cut stumps, this plan should allow for regeneration and management of those which benefit the savanna community.
  - Measures will be set up prior to construction of the site to minimize impact to the vegetation of the site.
  - Areas disturbed by construction will be graded and re-seeded with native plants that are typically found in an oak savannah.
  - Xcel Energy shall post the HVTL corridor with signs indicating the significance of the site and noting that any management on the site should not be done without reviewing the site *Construction and Maintenance Plan*.
2. Should MnDOT (the present owners of the Parcel No. 75 property) or a future owner of the site decide to develop and implement a vegetative management plan for Parcel No. 75 to restore and maintain the oak savannah, Xcel Energy agrees to incorporate those management concepts into its vegetative management plan, consistent with Xcel's maximum tree height requirements for the transmission lines.

**V. PERMIT AMENDMENT**

This permit may be amended at any time by the Environmental Quality Board. Any person may request an amendment of this permit by submitting a request to the Chair in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Chair will mail

notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The EQB may amend the permit after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

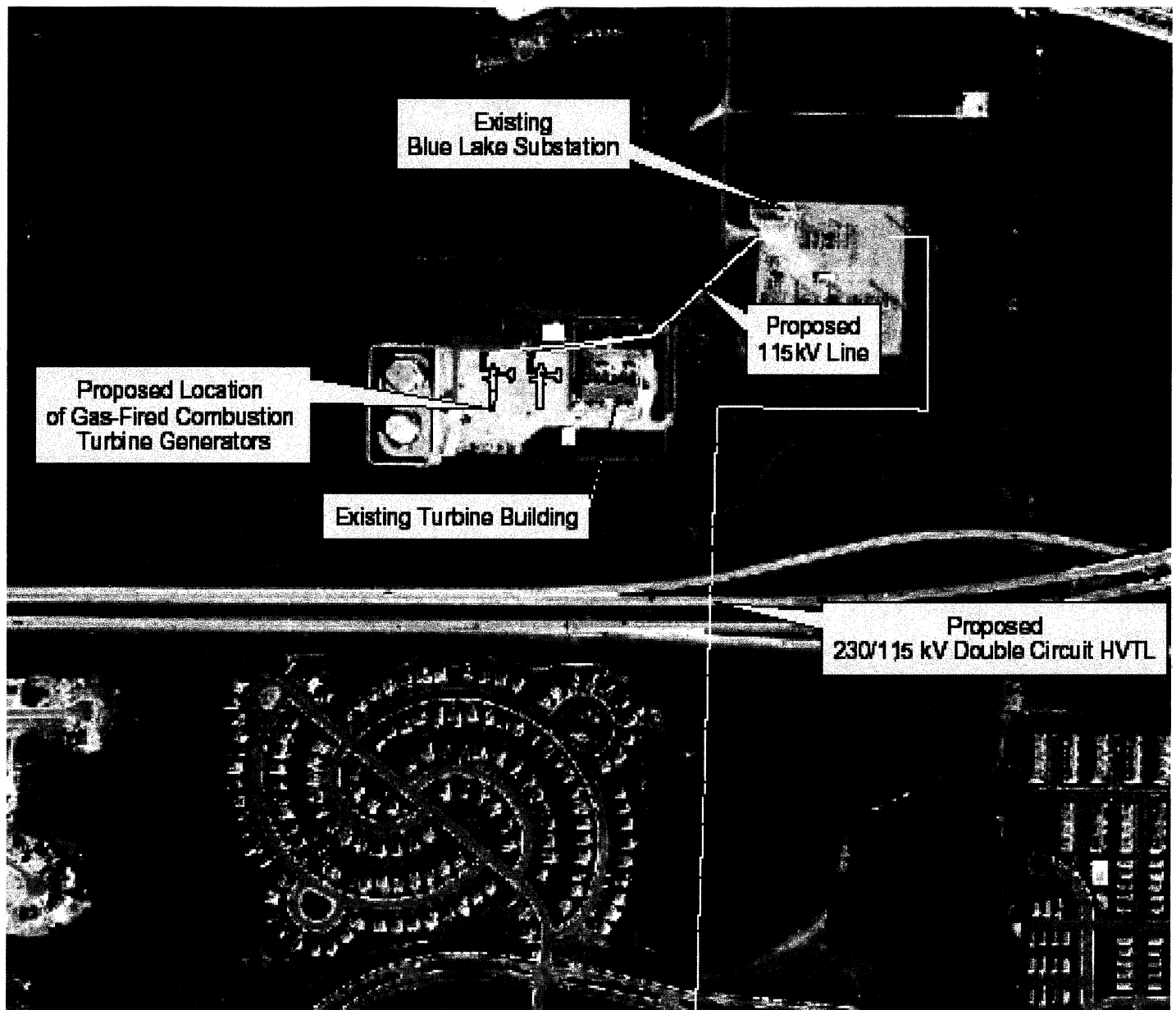
## **VI. TRANSFER OF PERMIT**

The Permittee may request at any time that the Environmental Quality Board transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer. The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the EQB with such information as the EQB shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The EQB may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

## **VII. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT**

The Environmental Quality Board may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The EQB shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 4400.3950 to revoke or suspend the permit.





**Figure 3 Site Map: Aerial**

**Environmental Assessment  
Blue Lake Site Permit  
EQB Docket No. 04-75-PPS-Xcel Blue Lake**



-  LEPPG Site
-  Approximate Alignment of New Transmission

